SHORT COMMUNICATION

Omalanthus nutans (Euphorbiaceae), the correct name for the 'Native Bleeding Heart' or 'Native Poplar' of Australia

Preparation of a treatment of the genus *Omalanthus* for the 'Flora of Australia' has resulted in the conclusion that the types of *Croton nutans* G.Forst. (1786) (= *Omalanthus nutans* (G.Forst.) Guillemin) and *O. populifolius* Graham (1827) are conspecific. The name *C. nutans* is based on a J.R. & G. Forster collection from Tonga. *Omalanthus nutans* has been considered to occur in the Caroline Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, Tonga and Vanuatu (Smith 1981; McPherson & Tirel 1987). The name *O. populifolius* is based on a specimen prepared from a plant cultivated at the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens. *Omalanthus populifolius* has been considered to occur in eastern Australia from the North Kennedy district of Queensland south to Nadgee in New South Wales (Airy Shaw 1981; James & Harden 1990).

Omalanthus populifolius is widely known as 'Native Bleeding Heart' or 'Native Poplar' (e.g. Stanley 1983; Floyd 1989; Hauser 1992; James & Harden 1990) and is commonly used as a pioneer species in gardens and landscape rehabilitation projects (Floyd 1990).

Omalanthus nutans *(G.Forst.) Guillemin*

Croton nutans G.Forst., *Fl. Ins. Austr. Prodr.* 67 (1786). *Omalanthus nutans* (G.Forst.) Guillemin, *Ann. Sci. Nat. II. Bot.* 7: 186 (1837). *Carumbium nutans* Muell.Arg. in DC., *Prodr.* 15(2): 1146 (1866).

Type: Tonga: Tongatapu, *J.R. & G. Forster* (K (photo at BRI!); lecto, Smith 1981: 560).

Omalanthus populifolius Graham, *Edinburgh New Philos. J.* [3]: 175 (1827). *Carumbium populifolium* (Graham) Benth., *Fl. Austral.* 6: 150 (1873), **synon. nov.**

Type: Hort. Edinb., [*Graham*], Apr.–June & 18 Sep. 1827, (holo E *n.v.*, *fide* Radcliffe-Smith (1987: 381); iso K (photo at BRI!)).

Omalanthus pedicellatus Benth., *London J. Bot.* 2: 232 (1843), **synon. nov.**

Type: Tonga: Vavao Fririty [?] Island, 1842, *Barclay* (holo K (photo at BRI!)).

Carumbium platyneurum Muell.Arg., *Linnaea* 32: 85 (1863), **synon. nov.**

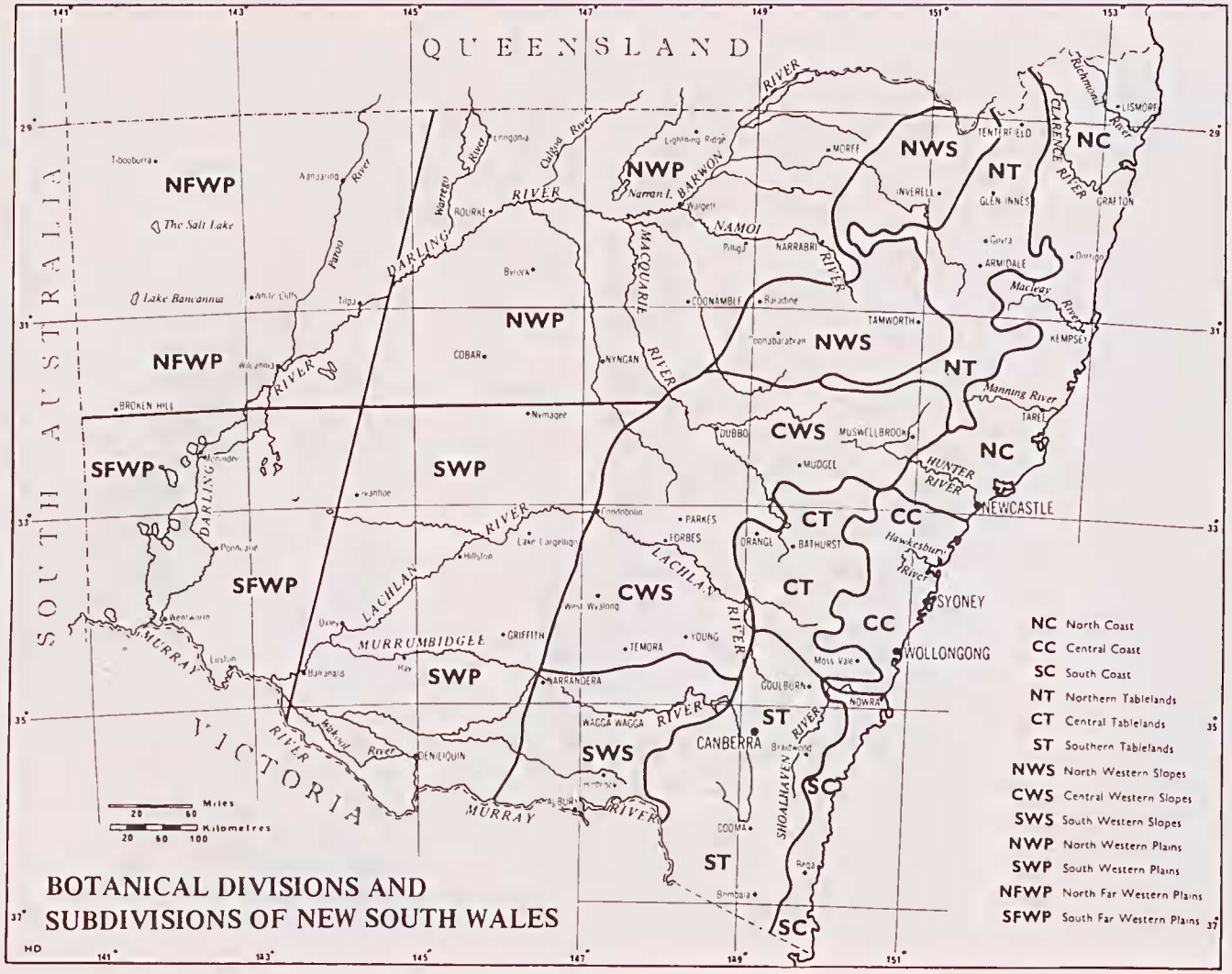
Type: 'In Nova Hollandia prope Sidney', *Vieillard* (holo P *n.v.*, *fide* Airy Shaw (1981: 643)).

Carumbium sieberi Muell.Arg., *Linnaea* 32: 85 (1863), **synon. nov.**

Type: 'In Nova Hollandia', *Sieber 640* (holo ?G-DC (fiche at BRI!)).

Distribution: *Omalanthus nutans* occurs in Melanesia (Fiji, New Caledonia, Tonga and Vanuatu) and Australia. In Australia it has been found in subcoastal parts of central and southern Queensland in the North Kennedy, South Kennedy, Port Curtis, Burnett, Wide Bay, Darling Downs and Moreton districts and in subcoastal New South Wales in the North Coast, Central Coast, South Coast, Northern Tablelands, Central Tablelands, North-Western Slopes and Lord Howe Island districts.

Floyd (1989) stated that the species also occurred in Cook district in north Queensland ('... to Coen'), Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. These records are misidentifications of *O. novoguineensis* (Warb.) Lauterb. & K. Schum. or *O. populneus* (Geisel.) Pax.



For explanation and description of the Botanical Divisions and Subdivisions of New South Wales see Anderson, R. H. (1961). Introduction. *Contr. New South Wales Natl. Herb. Fl. New South Wales* Nos 1–18, pp. 1–15.

CONSERVATION CODES APPLIED TO RARE AND THREATENED SPECIES

The codes used in this journal follow J. Briggs & J. Leigh (1988) *Rare or threatened Australian plants* 1988 Revised Edition. Australian National Parks & Wildlife Service, Special Publication no. 14.

Distribution categories

1 species known from type collection only

2 species with a very restricted distribution in Australia and with a maximum geographic range of less than 100 km

3 species with a geographic range of at least 100 km but occurring only in small populations (often restricted to highly specific and localised habitats)

\+ species also occurs naturally outside Australia

Conservation categories

X presumed extinct (not found in recent years)

x presumed extinct within a particular region

E endangered: species in serious risk of disappearing from the wild within 10–20 years

V vulnerable: species not presently endangered but at risk over 20–50 years

R rare: species that are rare in Australia but not endangered or vulnerable

K poorly known: species that are suspected of being at risk but data are inadequate;

k poorly known in Western Australia by the criteria of the Western Australian Dept of Conservation and Land Management

Reservation categories

C species known to be present within a national park or other proclaimed reserve;

a adequately reserved, with at least 1000 plants known to occur in reserves;

i inadequately reserved, with fewer than 1000 plants known from reserves;

\- adequacy of reservation unknown

t total known populations are in reserves

Taxonomic category

? taxonomic status is uncertain